

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Johnstown - Riders Disposal Area

**Tecumseh Redevelopment Inc.
Congressional District 15
EPA ID #: PAD004344222
Last Updated 6/30/2005**

Current Progress at the Site

Tecumseh Redevelopment Inc. (TRI), a subsidiary of International Steel Group purchases this site in 2003. TRI (the Facility) continues to monitor and assess environmental conditions at their Johnstown and East Taylor Township location (known as the Riders Disposal Area) under the regulation of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Several distinct disposal units at Riders Disposal Area including the Site 4 Residual Waste Landfill, the EAF Dust Landfill, Spent Pickle Liquor Treatment and Disposal Area, Ferro manganese Landfill, and Hot Forming Sludge Dewatering Lagoon have been closed, or are in the process of being cleaned up under PADEP-approved closure plans or permit. Groundwater and surface water continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

The PADEP evaluated the environmental conditions at the facility under a cooperative program with EPA Region III called Corrective Action Worksharing. PADEP's evaluation coincided with a 2000/2001 aquatic evaluation of Hinckston Run by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and PA Fish and Boat Commission and a January, 2002 surface water/seep pollution report. PADEP completed an environmental indicator report and determination on February 28, 2003. PADEP concluded that human exposures are under control but that contaminated groundwater was not, based on elevated levels of iron, sulfate, manganese and chromium in groundwater, and impacted adjacent Hinckston Run.

Site Description

Bethlehem Steel Corporation operated hazardous and residual waste disposal facilities on approximately 220 acres of property they own known as the Riders Disposal Area in East Taylor Township, and Johnstown Cambria County, Pennsylvania, from 1967 to 1996. This Facility reaches from south of the Hinckston Run Reservoir to within two miles of the northern limits of the City of Johnstown (a 6 mile distance) and it rises in elevation 250 feet above the stream bed elevation of Hinckston Run which flows south into the Conemaugh River. Both rivers are degraded from acid mine drainage.

BSC wastes that were historically managed at the Facility include waste pickle liquor, lime-stabilized waste pickle liquor sludge, ferromanganese sludge and slag, oils & grease, acid rinse water, coal tar sludge, zinc ore leach sludge, EAF and other baghouse dusts, brass foundry waste, filter cake from the wastewater treatment plant. These wastes were disposed at several areas at the Facility. The ferromanganese landfill (non-hazardous waste) was closed with a soil cover; the hazardous waste EAF Dust landfill was closed with a low-permeability cap; the non-hazardous waste hot forming sludge lagoon was clean closed by removing all waste, bulking and dewatering as necessary and disposing of the non-hazardous wastes in the Site 4 residual waste landfill; the Site 4 landfill has been closed with a soil cover but will need to be capped with a low permeability geomembrane liner to reduce precipitation infiltration and impacts to

groundwater and surface water, the hazardous waste spent pickle liquor treatment and disposal area closure permit has been approved, but closure has been delayed pending TRI's plans to mine ferromanganese metal and slag around and through the disposal area (plans currently under PADEP review). As part of the closure/post-closure requirements for these disposal units, the Facility continues to monitor groundwater, seeps and surface water as well as the condition of the final covers on the closed units. On January 20, 2005, PADEP advised TRI to plan for Site 4 capping and closure of the spent pickle liquor area in 2005.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the TRI facility are being conducted under the direction of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The investigation and any necessary clean up activities are being implemented under direction from the PADEP.

Contaminants

Heavy metals, cyanide, chloride, and sulfate are the main contaminants of concern at the Facility.

Institutional Controls

Institutional controls are not required at this time.

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

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